Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Government do not wish to deny that in point of primary education there is a certain amount of shyness on the part of parents in the case of some parts of Chittur Taluk. Without meaning any disparagement to any particular community the particular locality is referred to in the question contains a very large percentage of Muslims and there are special difficulties in trying to induce them to go to schools. They have their own economic difficulties. I wish to submit to this House a reply which has been received—almost unique in regard to that subject—that we want the services of our children to look after our farms, and Government could not give them any answer. The reasons are more economic than Education.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Are we to take that Government will introduce compulsory education with consent only? I was also a member of that committee as the sponsor of the Bill. Is it the opinion of the Government that compulsion in absolutely needed areas will be introduced only with consent?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Now that is not the position. The position of the Government is this. They would introduce compulsion if low attendance is the result of parental apathy. If on the other hand the low attendance is due to other causes and not due to parental apathy, they have to see whether other persuasive methods cannot be adopted to bring these children in larger numbers to school. As I stated the other day, personally I am not convinced. Parental apathy is the reason to some. To give only one instance, if we appoint attendance committees and enlist the help of local men I think it will be possible to increase the attendance in schools in the Chittur Taluk without compulsion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I believe Government have come across a paragraph in the report of the late Mr. Sankara Menon, the Census Commissioner of 1931. After giving out these facts he has stated this is a fit case for the introduction of compulsory primary education.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: I want notice. The Hon'ble Member has got the advantage of having the report but I have not got it. I believe it is absolutely correct.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Now Sir, it is in a helpful way that the Hon'ble Member for Education has stated that it is due to economic conditions and not a case of wilful negligence. In the Select Committee stage when this was last under discussion you will be pleased to find in the two Taluks of Talappalli and Chittur 107 in the one case and 20 in other, 99 in another, 57 in another, yet 57 in another and 480 in another case of wilful negligence and 408 out of 556 children of school going age—a huge percentage as the result of wilful negligence. My suggestion is Government will be pleased to take the question of introduction of compulsory primary education. Let there be an Act on the Statute Book. It may be applied to suitable areas like this. Out of 550 children of school going age 408 not attending as the result of wilful negligence is something abnormal. In spite of the fact that there are one or two schools in that area to cater to their needs we find the position to be as stated. So it is up to the Government to bring forward a compulsory Primary Education Bill or allow us to a free compulsory education Bill. I make this suggestion to the Government and I leave the suggestion there.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether in that backward area we have got a Village School?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: We have a school at Kairadi.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether Government are giving inducements to these children?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: The bulk of the children are Muslims. We are giving them all the concessions usually given to Muslims and we are utilising the services of the teachers to go to the homes and persuade the parents to send their children to schools. Only when permission in a matter like this fails, we have got justification for introducing compulsion. I am not quite certain that we have come to that stage. Since we have got a cut motion on this particular issue, I think further discussion may be put off now.

C.M.S. HIGH SCHOOL HEADMASTER—QUALIFICATIONS OF

61. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) who is the Headmaster of the C.M.S. High School, Trichur;

(*b*) what are his qualifications, general and technical;

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(*c*) was ever an Headmaster appointed in the C.M.S. High School who was not a trained graduate during its long life of over half a century;

(*d*) the number of trained graduates in the C.M.S. High School with the duration of their service;

(*e*) what are the special reasons for this particular appointment;

(*f*) has the appointment of the Headmaster been sanctioned by the department ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):*

(*a*) Rev. P. C. Thomas.

(*b*) B.A.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) 5. 2 .. 21 years.
1 .. 20 „
1 .. 14 „
1 .. 11 „

(*e*) Rev. P. C. Thomas is appointed as the Headmaster-Manager of the school. He has teaching experience, theological training and experience in the management of schools. The authorities concerned, therefore considered him as a competent man for the post.

(*f*) Yes.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* There is a slight correction in the answer to sub-division (*d*). The number given is 5. If you take the regular teachers, there is a super-numerary teacher. His name is now left out. So there are about 6 teachers. Their services are given.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* May I know Sir, whether psychology is the only subject taught in training colleges? Here, as qualification for the Headmastership, it is mentioned that Rev. Father P. C. Thomas is appointed as the Headmaster-Manager of the School. He has teaching experience, theological training and experience in the management of schools." May I know what other than phychology has of theological training to do as far as teaching in schools is concerned?

Mr. President: I would remind the Hon'ble Member that in many of the famous English Public schools, the Headmasters were trained in theology until recent time, most of them were.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri :* But Sir, he should not be a theologist only. He must have other qualifications. May I know what exactly has theological training to do in the teaching in schools ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* The Hon'ble President has explained what theology has to do with teachers. Unfortunately, in this country, we do not attach much, importance to the training of character in schools. But still we admit that moulding of character has something to do with education. The course of studies in psychology and theology both have got a bearing on education.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* Therefore it is I put my first question what other subjects than psychology are taught in Training Colleges ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I presume that Hon'ble Members will be aware of one of the portions of theology being the study of psychology. I maintain that in Training Colleges psychology is one of the subjects taught. Very many of other subjects are also taught. I presume so much in the first question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* What are the subjects taught in Training College ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* There is a course in the History of Education. There is a further course in teaching methods and school hygiene and kindergarten. These are the main subjects.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* With regard to the answer to sub-division (*b*) what are the qualifications, general and technical ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Beyond the qualifications mentioned, he has no other academic qualification.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Was the Rev. Father P. C. Thomas a member of the Staff?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Was he a member of the Staff at the time when the last incumbent was retired?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Yes. He was a member.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What was the number of years he had served as a member of the Staff?

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I think he was a teacher for about 5 or 6 years.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is that answer correct?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* It is not all continuous.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Of the two teachers of 21 years' service, are they not B.A.s?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Yes. Both.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether he the Rev. Father was the first Assistant, 2nd Assistant or 3rd Assistant?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I think he was a 3rd Assistant.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to take it from me that he was teaching only in the II or III Form?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Government have no information as to the detailed time table of work. But they have no reason to controvert what the Hon'ble Member has said. But that is not the point here.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The point is that the claims of experienced L. T. Teachers—two having 21 years, one of 20 years, another of 14 years, yet another of 11 years—with graduate qualifications, to the only place to which they could look for promotion, have for mysterious reasons been overlooked. That is the complaint. If these 5 teachers with discontent writ large in their faces go to their respective classes necessarily their teaching will be bad.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* In the matter of the selection for appointment to a post like that of a head-master, it is very difficult for me to say whether the claims of any person have been overlooked, very much like a person saying my claims to the public examinership has been overlooked.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It is quite different.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* There is no doubt that people who are seniors to Rev. P. C. Thomas have been passed over. That is all Government can say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It has been stated Sir, that the appointment of this Rev. Father has been sanctioned by the Government. Do the Government generally sanction the appointment to the Headmastership of untrained technically unqualified people?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* In the case of temporary exemption it is very often given, But in the case of permanent exemption, of course, it is a very different matter.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The inference therefore is that a temporary exemption alone is given in this case.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I want notice. I can tell the Hon'ble Member that invariably exemption is given for a year to begin with.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the House be right in thinking that in this particular case it is only temporary exemption and not a permanent exemption that is given.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether there are Head-masters under the Government who have not had training in L. T.?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Not now. There was.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Head-master in primary schools if untrained are invariably turned out?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I do admit that, while I do not admit the suggestion. For instance we do not ask any of our college men to get trained. The difference is much more important in primary schools and see that they have got the educational qualifications and we insist upon such qualifications. As we go higher up, we do not insist upon the technical qualification. We have got teachers who have been trained in the Training College.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether in India and in Cochin State there are not many colleges and schools in which the Headmasters are not trained?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* We have quite a number of high schools where the heads are not trained.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When Mr. Mills was appointed as Principal, May I know whether there were not many men with very many years of experience in Cochin?

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* There were people who had longer service in the State.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* There were complaints which came from the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Vehemently opposed by the other Members of the House.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Is Rev. P. C. Thomas a Cochinite.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* He has come from Travancore.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is there any Headmaster in another aided high school who is not trained ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Quite a number. I am quite certain that the Headmasters of many of the Roman Catholic Schools are not trained.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Hon'ble member for Education was not able to give us whether exemption in the case of this particular Headmaster is permanent or not. Can we have an assurance that if the exemption granted is only temporary, will the question of the heart-burn of these teachers be considered when further exemption is asked for.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I may inform the Hon'ble Member that this is the first occasion I hear of heart-burn; whereas none of these people have complained. They have probably acquiesced. I can assure the Hon'ble Member that if any injustice has been done and if it is possible to revoke such orders, Government have absolutely no objection to keep an open mind in all these matters.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That there had been no complaint is easily answered. The Headmaster concerned is also the manager. However I thank the Hon'ble member for Education for his assurance.

THARAKAN'S LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL, ARANATTUKARA

62. Mrs. K. Joshua *(Women-Trichur):*

(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of classes both aided and unaided in the Tharakan's Lower Secondary School, Aranattukara, in this academic year ;

(*b*) of these how many are unaided ;

(*c*) how long were these classes remaining unaided ;

(*d*) when was the post of a Music Mistress sanctioned in this Institution and whether grant towards her pay is being made by Government ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):*

(*a*) 16.

(*b*) None.

(*c*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (*b*).

(*d*) The post was sanctioned on 29th June 1938/15th Mithunam 1113 and a Music Mistress was appointed on 18th July 1938/3rd Karkadagam 1113. No grant towards the pay of the Music Mistress is being given by Government.

Mrs. K. Joshua *(Women-Trichur):* What, is grant not given to these certain classes?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* It is in pursuance of a general policy unfortunately rendered necessary by the difficulty in finding funds. We have to choose between giving aid to our elementary school teachers who are a much worse body to give grants in respect of specialists and it was definitely ruled—and it has not been done secretly without the concurrence of this House, that we should prefer the aiding of elementary school teachers rather than taking everyone and try to give aid to these specialists. Government do not propose to give preference until they can find sufficient funds for all.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* This year will the Government be pleased to give and specially in view of the fact that in Travancore Music has been introduced as a subject and in view of the fact that we have got plenty of money ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* This year we have a wind fall. But it may not continue.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I make a request that the rest of the questions may also be printed in the proceedings?

Secretary to the Council : It has already been printed, in the proceedings.

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